

**Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations**

[Notice Published July 26, 2002]

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

**Hardwood 2002**

The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) proposes to adopt the regulations described below after considering all comments, objections, and recommendations regarding the proposed action.

**PROPOSED REGULATORY ACTION**

The Board proposes to amend the following section of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (14 CCR):

**§§ 932.9 and 952.9 Cumulative Impacts Assessment Checklist**

**Appendix Technical Rule Addendum # 2**

**C. Biological Resources**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

The Board will hold a public hearing starting at 9:30 A.M., on Thursday, September 12, 2002, at the Radisson Hotel, 300 South Court, Visalia, California. At the hearing, any person may present statements or arguments, orally or in writing, relevant to the proposed action described in the *Informative Digest*. The Board requests, but does not require, that persons who make oral comments at the hearing also submit a summary of their statements. Additionally, pursuant to Government Code § 11125.1, any information presented to the Board during the open hearing in connection with a matter subject to discussion or consideration becomes part of the public record. Such information shall be retained by the Board and shall be made available upon request.

**WRITTEN COMMENT PERIOD**

Any person, or authorized representative, may submit written comments relevant to the proposed regulatory action to the Board. The written comment period ends at 5:00 P.M., on Monday, September 9, 2002. The Board will consider only written comments received at the Board office by that time (in addition to those written comments received at the public hearing). The Board requests, but does not require, that persons who submit written comments to the Board reference the title of the rulemaking proposal in their comments to facilitate review.

Written comments shall be submitted to the following address:

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Attn: James L. Mote  
Regulations Coordinator  
P.O. Box 944246  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Written comments can also be hand delivered to the contact person listed in this notice at the following address:

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Room 1506-14  
1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento, CA

Written comments may also be sent to the Board via facsimile at the following phone number:

(916) 653-0989

Written comments may also be delivered via e-mail at the following address:

[board.public.comments@fire.ca.gov](mailto:board.public.comments@fire.ca.gov)

## **AUTHORITY AND REFERENCE**

Public Resources Code (PRC) § 4551, 4551.5, 4552 and 4553 authorizes the Board to adopt such rules and regulations as it determines are reasonably necessary to enable it to implement, interpret or make specific sections 4513(b) of the Public Resources Code.

## **INFORMATIVE DIGEST/POLICY STATEMENT OVERVIEW**

Existing statute 4513(b) of the Public Resources Code (PRC) states that one of the goals of the Z'berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act is to give consideration to wildlife.

Existing regulation in 14CCR §§ 939 and 959 states that timber operations shall be planned and conducted to maintain suitable habitat for wildlife species.

Existing regulation in the hardwood cover subsection of the biological resources portion of the Appendix to Technical Rule Addendum # 2 of 14CCR §§ 932.9 and 952.9 states hardwoods provide an important element of habitat diversity in the coniferous forest and are utilized as a source of food and/or cover by a large proportion of the state's bird and mammal species. Productivity of deer and other species has been directly related to mast crops. Hardwood cover can be estimated using the basal area per acre provided by hardwoods of all species.

Existing regulation in the special habitat elements subsection of the biological resources

portion of the Appendix to Technical Rule Addendum # 2 of 14CCR §§ 932.9 and 952.9 states the loss of a key habitat element may have a profound effect on a species even though the habitat is otherwise suitable. Each species may have several key limiting factors to consider. For example, a special need for some large raptors is large decadent trees/snags with broken tops or other features. Deer may have habitat with adequate food and cover to support a healthy population size and composition but dependent on a few critical meadows suitable for fawning success. These and other key elements may need special protection.

Existing regulation in 14CCR § 959.15 (a) states, for the southern subdistrict, that where present at time of timber harvest, 400 sq. ft. basal area of oak per 40 acres should be retained and protected, giving preference to deciduous oaks. Oaks should be retained on areas designated by DFG as deer migration corridors, holding areas, or key ranges when consistent with good forestry practices. Although this regulation does not apply to the state as a whole, it demonstrates the necessity to consider hardwood retention when planning timber harvests.

The proposed regulation is designed to emphasize the need to consider hardwood retention in all of California.

#### DISCLOSURES REGARDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

The Board has determined the proposed action will have the following effects:

- Mandate on local agencies and school districts: None
- Costs or savings to any State agency: None
- Cost to any local agency or school district which must be reimbursed in accordance with the applicable Government Code (GC) sections commencing with GC § 17500: None
- Other non-discretionary cost or savings imposed upon local agencies: None
- Cost or savings in federal funding to the State: None
- Significant statewide adverse economic impact on business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states: The Board has made an initial determination that there will be no significant statewide adverse economic impact directly effecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states.
- Cost impacts on representative private persons or businesses: The Board is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.
- Significant effect on housing costs: None
- Adoption of these regulations will not: (1) create or eliminate jobs within California; (2) create new businesses or eliminate existing businesses within California; or (3) affect the expansion of businesses currently doing business within California.
- Effect on small business: None. The Board has determined that the proposed amendments will not affect small business.
- The proposed rules do not conflict with, or duplicate Federal regulations.

## **BUSINESS REPORTING REQUIREMENT**

The regulation does not require a report, which shall apply to businesses.

## **CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES**

In accordance with Government Code § 11346.5(a)(13), the Board must determine that no reasonable alternative it considers or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of the Board would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action.

## **CONTACT PERSON**

Requests for copies of the proposed text of the regulations, the *Initial Statement of Reasons*, modified text of the regulations and any questions regarding the substance of the proposed action may be directed to:

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Attn: James L. Mote  
Regulations Coordinator  
P.O. Box 944246  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460  
Telephone: (916) 653-9418 or,  
(916) 653-8007

The designated backup person in the event Mr. Mote is not available is Daniel Sendek, Executive Officer of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, at the above address and phone.

## **AVAILABILITY OF STATEMENT OF REASONS AND TEXT OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS**

The Board has prepared an *Initial Statement of Reasons* providing an explanation of the purpose, background, and justification for the proposed regulations. The statement is available from the contact person on request.

When the *Final Statement of Reasons* has been prepared, the statement will be available from the contact person on request.

A copy of the express terms of the proposed action using UNDERLINE to indicate an addition to the California Code of Regulations and ~~STRIKETHROUGH~~ to indicate a deletion, is also available from the contact person named in this notice.

The Board will have the entire rulemaking file, including all information considered as a basis for this proposed regulation, available for public inspection and copying throughout the rulemaking process at its office at the above address. All of the above referenced information is also available on the CDF web site at:

[http://www.fire.ca.gov/BOF/board/board\\_proposed\\_rule\\_packages.html](http://www.fire.ca.gov/BOF/board/board_proposed_rule_packages.html)

#### **AVAILABILITY OF CHANGED OR MODIFIED TEXT**

After holding the hearing and considering all timely and relevant comments received, the Board may adopt the proposed regulations substantially as described in this notice. If the Board makes modifications which are sufficiently related to the originally proposed text, it will make the modified text—with the changes clearly indicated—available to the public for at least 15 days before the Board adopts the regulations as revised. Notice of the comment period on changed regulations, and the full text as modified, will be sent to any person who:

- a) testified at the hearings,
- b) submitted comments during the public comment period, including written and oral comments received at the public hearing, or
- c) requested notification of the availability of such changes from the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Requests for copies of the modified text of the regulations may be directed to the contact person listed in this notice. The Board will accept written comments on the modified regulations for 15 days after the date on which they are made available.

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James L. Mote  
Regulations Coordinator  
Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

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File: Hardwoods 45 Day Notice